

**TOWN OF AURORA, NC**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 6, 2025, Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, January 6, 2025, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

**Officials Present:** [X] Clif Williams, Mayor

**Commissioners**

**Present:** [ ] Omar Bahhur  
[X] Coley Jordan  
[X] Steve McCormack  
[X] Jeff Peed

**Attendance:** [X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer  
[X] Ashley Barnes - Public Works Director  
[X] Rhonda Stallings - Administrative Assistant  
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

Commissioner Bahhur was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Peed led in prayer.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

**Public Comment**

Under Public Comment, Nancy Hubbard thanked everyone who had helped with the Christmas in Aurora event this year. Nancy discussed positive feedback she had received with some ideas for next year to make the event even better. A big thank you was heard from all in attendance to Nancy and the Aurora Leadership Council members who do such a great job each year with the Christmas decorations and planning of the event.

**Presentation**

Members of the Partnership for Aurora Richland Township Progress reported to the Town Board of Commissioners that they have received upwards of \$70,000 in donations and grant funding to their PARTP 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity. The partnership outlined their goals and asked for the Town Boards' approval of the planned activities that include:

- The PARTP purchase of a 40 foot CONEX to donate to the Town of Aurora for the purpose of safely storing the town's holiday decorations

- Approve of the PARTP continued restoration efforts of the Town of Aurora “History Museum”
- The PARTP purchase and installation of a cell phone signal booster for the town community center
- Consider designating the adjacent property to the library as a future community park

Lastly, the PARTP is using a \$25,000 grant provided by Nutrien last year, to have the required studies completed to designate our downtown a historic district and be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

After a brief discussion of gratitude, Commissioner Jordan made the motion to approve the PARTP ongoing plans for the storage CONEX, the History Museum, the cell phone booster and the future community park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

### **Consideration of Minutes**

The proposed minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Jordan and were approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

### **Old Business**

Under Old Business the Clerk presented the council with a Resolution to Amend the Aurora Industrial Park Budget. On December 10, 2024, NC Department of Commerce, Golden Leaf Foundation and the Mid-East commission met with the Project Engineer and the town representatives to review the \$175,549.17 project funding shortfall due to outdated 2018 construction cost estimates and increased post pandemic construction costs, construction delays and the unexpected cost of moving a fiber optic pedestal. The motion to approve the AIP Project Budget Amendment was made by Commissioner Peed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business, Public Works Director Ashley Barnes gave an update on work completed on town owned buildings. This work included cleaning out of gutters on all our buildings as well as repair of a drainpipe at the day care.

Ashley Barnes also informed the Commissioners that he was awaiting a quote from CMF for the fabricating of new access ramps for the wastewater treatment lagoon. This must be done as soon as possible for safety reasons. The entire Board was in agreement with the attached quote. A motion was made by Commissioner Peed to accept the quote and schedule the work to begin as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Mr. Barnes also gave an update on trouble shooting electrical problem at the WWTP with Buck electric. There was quite a lot of electrical repair needed due to corrosion. This included: rewiring of pump, disconnect and remove old panel and conduits, mount new panel, replace two EMT conduits, the replacement of several receptacles, tie 3<sup>rd</sup> UF into exhaust fan, replace GFCI and covers on the rear of building and at “shelter” area near lagoon entrance. These WWTP repairs should be covered under the remaining ARPO funds designated for wastewater.

Mr. Barnes also reported that most of the storm drains had been cleared and they installed grates on a few that were missing. Public Works located most of the valves around town and has raised a few to found height and painted them so they could be located when needed.

Lastly, under Old Business, the Board considered two third party invoices. The first invoice was from Mayor Williams for WWTP Lagoon consulting with Terry Groom. After a brief discussion the motion to approve and pay the invoice was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

The second invoice was from Commissioner Jordan for plastic pallets to be used by Public Works for the storing and easier handling of already existing equipment that could be strapped to the pallet. The motion to approve and pay the invoice was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Peed. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

### **New Business**

Under new business, the Board reviewed the letter from NC DEQ regarding a Certified B-Well Operator. Ashley Barnes has been in contact with Mr. Joey White at the Washington NCDEQ office and they are aware the Town has a Contracted B-Well OCR and that he will be taking his B-Well exam in February. The Town is also moving the Lab Analysis from Waypoint Analytic to Environmental Chemists, who will provide a weekly B-Well Operator visit in order to keep the Town in compliance. Our Contracted ORC for Water, Lee Sasser, has a B-Distribution license.

Next under New Business was the Southern Bank Signature card update. This is being done to remove former Commissioner Taylor and adding Commissioner McCormack. This is also necessary due to NCGS §159-25 which requires a town employee or elected official to co-sign our checks. Former Town Clerk Sandra Sartin can no longer perform this service. The NCLM suggested our Administrative Assistant as our Elected Officials were already being placed on the document.

### **Mayor and Board Comments**

The mayor asked for a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Peed made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S § 143-318.11 (a)(1) To prevent the

disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

**Adjournment/Recess**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Peed to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

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Clif Williams, Mayor

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Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk